



Iowa Outdoors

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
www.iowadnr.com

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1. Trees and Shrubs Vital to Wildlife Winter Survival
2. Winter Becoming an Outdoors Woman Workshop Returns in February
3. Surfing for Trees This Spring?
4. Ice Fishing Clinics Scheduled

TREES AND SHRUBS VITAL TO WILDLIFE WINTER SURVIVAL

With the typical Iowa winter of subzero temperatures and strong northerly winds, the benefits of trees and woody shrubs to wildlife and songbirds can not be overemphasized.

Trees, especially conifers, provide critical winter cover for many of Iowa's game and non-game species. If densely planted, conifer trees act as "Wildlife Hotels" by greatly reducing wind chill temperatures and allowing wildlife to conserve body heat. In addition, conifers provide cover for wildlife hiding from predators. Conifers ideally suited to Iowa's growing conditions are red cedar, white pine, red pine, jack pine, Norway spruce and white spruce.

Broadleaf shrubs and small trees with dense low hanging branches also provide winter cover for wildlife and provide winter food sources. Shrubs and small trees such as serviceberry, the dogwoods, chokecherry, wild plum, elderberry, arrowwood, nannyberry, buttonbush and highbush cranberry are excellent choices for Iowa wildlife. As the snow becomes deeper and blows into drifts, upright woody vegetation continues to provide winter food, browse, and cover which is often critical to wildlife winter survival.

To provide winter cover in future years, trees and shrub species can be planted this spring. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) State Forest Nursery sells trees and shrubs for wildlife plantings. The price is \$0.25 to \$0.45 per seedling with a minimum order of 500 seedlings. For smaller scale plantings, the 20 seedling Songbird packet is available at \$20 and various 200 seedling wildlife habitat packets are available at \$90. To order seedlings or for more information, call the nursery at 1-800-865-2477 or connect to www.iowatreeplanting.com.

“If you have an area of open land, consider a tree and shrub planting to help Iowa’s wildlife species,” said John Walkowiak, chief of the DNR’s forestry bureau.

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WINTER BECOMING AN OUTDOORS WOMAN WORKSHOP RETURNS IN FEBRUARY

DES MOINES -- The Iowa Becoming an Outdoors Woman program one-day winter workshop has sessions available for participants who have put off registering until the last minute. The workshop is Feb. 5 in Clear Lake at the Tanglefoot Girl Scout Camp on the south shore of Clear Lake.

Participants will choose one of four different sessions in the morning and one of four sessions in the afternoon. Session topics include ice fishing, turkey hunting, falconry, fly tying, snowshoeing, winter survival/orienteering and game care and cooking. The cross country skiing session is full. The \$50 registration includes class instruction and materials, and a continental breakfast, lunch and snack.

Becoming an Outdoors Woman is an international program aimed primarily at women, but is an opportunity for anyone 18 years or older to learn outdoor skills usually associated with hunting and fishing, but useful for many outdoor pursuits.

For more information and to download a registration form, visit www.iowadnr.com and click on Becoming an Outdoors Woman under “Reminders/News,” or contact Julie Sparks at 515-281-6159 or julie.sparks@dnr.state.ia.us

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SURFING FOR TREES THIS SPRING?

In today’s web surfing society, people are looking for convenient and reliable sources of information in one easy to find place. For tree and shrub spring planting information, surf over to www.iowatreeplanting.com.

“Iowatreeplanting.com was developed to be the one stop shopping source of information for people who want to plant hundreds of trees on their acreages or one tree in their yard,” said John Walkowiak, chief of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources forestry bureau.

“Iowatreeplanting.com promotes the use of native trees and shrubs for conservation and landscaping purposes and has a complete listing of Iowa’s native woody

plants, along with a complete listing of Iowa public and private nursery sources,” Walkowiak said.

Iowatreeplanting.com has tips developed by foresters and biologists on creating wildlife habitat and on protecting Iowa’s water quality. “There is even information on how to plant and care for your new trees. Plans are to continue to further develop the web site to add sample landscape and habitat designs that people can use,” he said.

“If someone is interested in tree planting this spring, don’t wait for warm weather to think about plantings,” Walkowiak said. “Most nurseries operate on a first come first served basis and those interested should start planning now and investigate plant availability and prices and www.iowatreeplanting.com is a perfect place to start.”

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ICE FISHING CLINICS SCHEDULED

DES MOINES – Free ice fishing clinics are scheduled around Iowa. Activities vary at each clinic, but participants can expect to learn basic safety tips while on the ice and different ice fishing techniques and bait presentations. Participants should prepare to be outdoors for an extended amount of time. Hats and mittens are essential along with a good pair of boots.

Contact the clinic for more information.

Jan. 29	Hannen Lake, Blairstown	319-472-5395
Jan. 29	Lake Manawa, Council Bluffs	712-773-2701
Jan. 30	Smith’s Bay, West Okoboji Lake, Okoboji	712-933-5532
Feb. 5	Russell Wildlife Area Pond, Oskaloosa	641-673-9327
Feb. 8	Central Park Lake, Anamosa	563-487-3541
Feb. 12	Fort Des Moines Park, Des Moines	515-323-5361
Feb. 12	Plainfield Lake, Plainfield	319-882-4742
Feb. 22	F.W. Kent Park, Tiffin	319-645-1011

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